

THE *Current* Shadow Creek Ranch

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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

SPIDER MITES

It's hot. It's dry. It's time for spider mites. Spider mites are very small to microscopic in size and depending on how good your eyesight is, you may not be able to see them without a good hand lens or microscope.

While spider mites are not insects- they are arachnids and more closely related to spiders than insects- they are pests in the landscape. Most spider mites produce a webbing around their colony. It starts on the underside of leaves and will expand out as the population increases.

Feeding can cause leaves to discolor, creating a speckled appearance on foliage. With severe infestations, leaves discolor to a silver or bronze color which may result in leaves dropping from the plant. While mites feed on the underside of leaves, damage is more apparent on the tops.

Spider mites lay their eggs along the leaf vein during the growing season. Eggs are round and large in size when compared to adult mites. Some species of spider mites peak during warmer months of the year while others become more active in the cooler months of the year. The mites are able to develop more quickly when temperatures are warmer, with some spider mites going from egg to adult in less than 1 week. Spider mites thrive in dry conditions while their natural enemies require more humid conditions. Dry conditions allow spider mite populations to grow with little predation or parasitism that would help to keep the population at an acceptable level.

There are many predatory arthropods that feed on spider mites. Some of these include predatory mites, spider mite destroyers (a type of ladybug), minute pirate bugs, big-eyed bugs, and predatory thrips. Proper watering of plants may help to reduce spider mite outbreaks as it can reduce stress brought on by drought. Using strong jets of water directed on plants can also help to dislodge spider mites. Miticides or acaricides can be used to manage spider mite outbreaks. Look for active ingredients such as horticultural oils (watch temperature when you use oils), insecticidal soaps, spinosad, abamectin, bifenthrin, dimethoate, or acephate.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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SHADOW CREEK RANCH

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	281-331-9000
Pearland Police Department.....	281-997-4100

SCHOOLS

Mary Marek Elementary	281-245-3232
Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary	281-245-3090
Manvel Junior High	281-331-1416
Alvin Senior High	281-331-8151
Manvel High School	281-245-2235
Alvin ISD Administration	281-338-1130
Alvin ISD Transportation	281-331-0960

UTILITIES

Electricity - Reliant Energy.....	713-207-7777
Gas - Center Point	713-659-2111
Trash Removal - City of Pearland	281-652-1600

CITY

Pearland City Hall.....	281-652-1600
Pearland Utility Billing - Water Dept.	281-652-1603
Pearland Animal Control.....	281-652-1970
Pearland Police Dept - Non-Emergency	281-652-1100
Pearland Public Works.....	281-652-1900

OTHER NUMBERS

Pearland Post Office	281-485-2132
Poison Control.....	800-764-7661
Brazoria County Health Department	979-864-1484
Animal Control.....	281-756-2265
Cable/Internet/Phone...COMCAST	713-341-1000

NEWSLETTER

Articles.....	shadowcreekranch@peelinc.com
Publisher	
Peel, Inc.	1-888-687-6444
Advertising.....	1-888-687-6444

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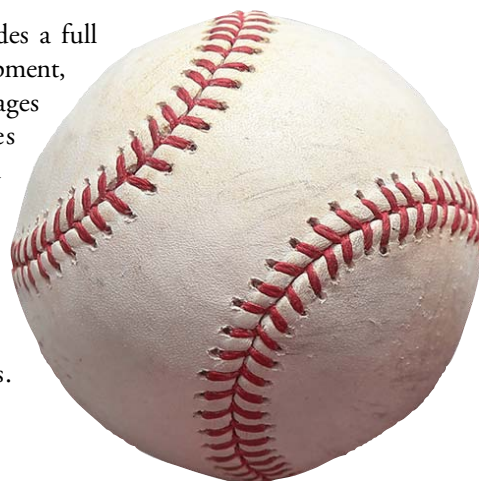
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BASEBALL FALL SIGN UP

Play at our own \$10 million baseball park here at Shadow Creek. Competitive and recreational. We take beginners! Grades K-7 boys and girls—Tball, Coach Pitch, and Kid Pitch. First games September 15, 19, & 20. We work game schedules to allow your child to play a 2nd sport with no problem.

Registration includes a full uniform, practice equipment, games, and trophy (ages 4-9). Practice times decided by team parents. Teams coached by team parents.

More information and register at ShadowCreekSports.org



SOCCER FALL SIGN UP

Ages 4-9 – Saturday games 8-12 noon

Ages 10-18 + Adult – Sunday games 2-6 pm

Girls only league Ages 6-14

First Game = September 15. Registration includes a full uniform, practice equipment. Trophy for ages 4-9. Practice times decided by team parents. Teams coached by team parents.

Register now at ShadowCreekSports.org

ADULT SOCCER & WOMEN'S BEGINNING SOCCER



Women's Begining Soccer
Play in our "W" league for women beginner and intermediate players.
Visit www.PearlandSoccer.org

Adult Soccer
Play in our "A" or "B" league. Visit www.PearlandSoccer.org for details.

SHADOW CREEK RANCH

HEALTHY SNACKS

QUOTED DIRECTLY FROM VETERANS ADMINISTRATION WEB SITE:

- Apples (dried or cut into wedges), 1 medium or ¼ cup (35 grams)
- Bananas, 1 medium
- Raisins, ¼ cup (35 grams)
- Fruit leather (dried fruit puree) without added sugar
- Carrots (regular carrots cut into strips, or baby carrots), 1 cup (130 grams)
- Snap peas (the pods are edible), 1.5 cups (350 grams)
- Nuts (but not too many,) 1 oz. (28 grams) (about 23 almonds)
- Whole-grain dry cereal (if sugar is not listed as one of the first 2 ingredients), ¾ cup (70 grams)
- Pretzels, 1 oz. (28 grams)
- String cheese, 1.5 oz.(42 grams)
- Low-fat or nonfat yogurt, 8 oz.(224 grams)
- Toasted whole-what English muffin with jelly
- Air popped popcorn, 3 cups (33 grams)
- Cherry or grape tomatoes, ½ cup (120 grams)
- Hummus, ½ cups (120 grams)
- Pumpkin seeds in shell, ½ cup (18 grams)



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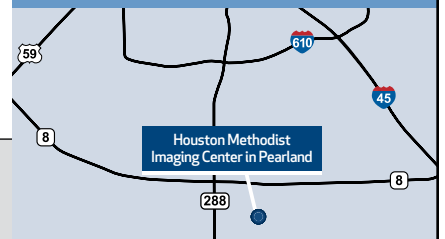
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SHADOW CREEK RANCH

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Meet Exzavoyor (12)! He is a fun kiddo, who works hard in school and always strives to do his best. If you enjoy a quick pickup game or throwing the football around or kicking a soccer ball, Exzavoyor

just might be the perfect fit for your family. He would be waiting for a family to call his own!

Interested in adoption or foster care? There are no fees to adopt from the foster care system regardless of which agency you work with. The first step is to choose a child placing agency to begin your journey. Learn more about starting the adoption process and the children waiting for forever families at www.heartgallerytexas.com.



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WHAT'S LIVING IN MY CHIMNEY?

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



If you're hearing twittering followed by rapid, high-pitched chirps in your fireplace, you've got Chimney Swifts but before you call an exterminator to have them removed, it's important to know that the birds have the law on their side. They are protected by federal law under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is illegal to remove or disturb their nests, eggs or young during the breeding season. Any knowledgeable, respected exterminating company won't touch them. Once the babies are old enough to chirp, they'll only be around for a couple of weeks before they leave the nest so hang in there and leave them alone. They cause little to no damage.

Sadly, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, Chimney Swift populations have decreased by 72% since 1966. Their favorite nesting places are old hollow trees and masonry chimneys. With urban sprawl many of the trees are being removed and newer homes and buildings are being constructed without fireplaces. If fireplaces are being built, newer materials such as metal liners are being used making it impossible for the Swifts to cling to the sides.

Once a nesting site has been found, Mom and Dad Swift construct

a half saucer-shaped nest made of twigs. The twigs are held together by glue-like saliva from a gland under the bird's tongue. The nest is "glued" to the side of the chimney.

Chimney Swifts fly almost constantly except when roosting overnight and nesting. They even bathe while flying. They fly down to the water, hit the surface with their body, bounce up and shake off the water. When it is time to rest, they don't sit on perches. They have long claws that cling to textured walls and other textured vertical surfaces such as the walls of your chimney.

Swifts are very beneficial. They gobble up thousands of mosquitoes, flies and other insects while in flight. Two parents along with their nestlings will consume up to 12,000 flying insects every day.

Come fall the birds migrate back to the Amazon River Basin.

Chimney Swifts are admitted to TWRC Wildlife Center every year. As part of our mission, we want to educate the public to the laws regarding this species as well as many other migratory species. If you have Chimney Swifts in your chimney, please leave them alone and don't risk the fines and possible jail time associated with disturbing them. If you have questions, please give us a call at 713-468-8972 or check our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org.

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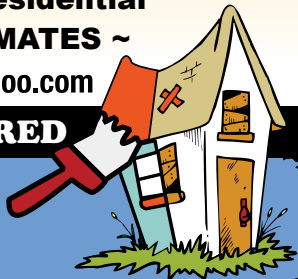
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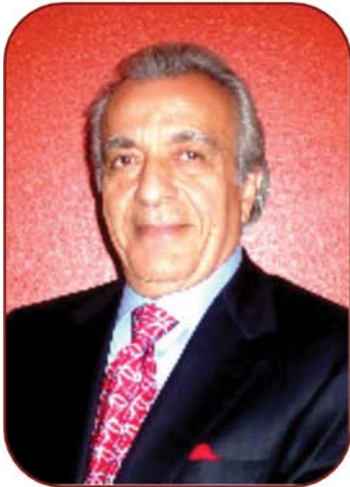


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